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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER,
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London, ON. N6G 1G5
(519) 645-2844

February, 1995

95-2

SUMMER TRAVELS ON KING WILLIAM ISLAND: RE-TRACING THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION

John MacDonald
MCTR, Toronto

It turns out that when John isn't chasing after developers in central Ontario, he's playing technical advisor up north to one (of seemingly many) of the recent expeditions in search of the ill-fated Franklin expedition. John will entertain us all with his time spent up in the Arctic last summer, and the results of this very important investigation (is it true, John, that you went up more or less as an all expenses paid vacation?!!). Speaker Night will be on March 9th, at 8PM, up at Grosvenor Lodge.

Next Month: April is member's night this year, but with a twist: It's couples night! Harri and Karen Mattila, and Chris and Andrew Nelson will be our four speakers this night. Meeting time will 8 PM at Grosvenor Lodge, on April 13th.

REMEMBER: 1995 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE...**NOW!!!**

ANNUAL RATES

Individual.....	$15.00
Family.....	$18.00
Institutional.....	$21.00
Subscriber.....	$17.00

Chapter Executive

HEY!!!!!!

1995 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!
IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED, YOU HAVE UNTIL THE END OF MARCH UNTIL YOUR NAME IS REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST, SO, PLEASE, PAY UP SOON!

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Not much new to report on the Executive front. Plans are still proceeding to strike an Operations Committee to review the current state and health of the Chapter, and propose ways to plan for the Chapter's long-term viability. At City Hall, plans are proceeding to convert LACAC into a Local Heritage Committee, and Bev Morrison will be representing the Chapter and London archaeological community on that community. Bev will be replacing the more than able Peter Timmins, who held sway for the Chapter on LACAC for the last, er, several years (don't panic, Bev!).

SOCIAL REPORT

Our Special February speaker night, featuring a presentation on the Royal Tombs of the Moche, was a big success. Thanks to a well-timed article appearing in the local newspaper (thanks to Andrew Nelson for that bit of PR), the Chapter speaker night attracted about a 150 people. Fortunately, we had decided not to hold the presentation at Grosvenor Lodge!!! Thanks to Chris Ellis for arranging space up at the University for that night.

It seems that the talk has inspired many Chapter members to trek on down to Detroit and catch the Royal Tomb exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Art. As a result, the Executive is looking into chartering a bus and taking a whole gaggle of us down to Detroit for the day. No word yet on cost or arrangements, but if you're interested in taking part, please notify the Executive.

Another spin-off from that Speaker Night was the garnering of several new members to the Chapter. Welcome All. I hope you're not expecting similar talks and newsletter articles at the scale you got that night, however! Actually, much of the success of getting new members is due to the slick new Chapter brochure worked up for that event. Many thanks to Karen Mattila for that bit of inspired production!!

Finally, the early word from above is that our Summer Picnic has already been arranged!! According to Pat, on Saturday, September 23rd the Chapter will co-host the picnic with the Thames Valley Trails Association, at the Longwoods Road Conservation Authority. As this is some several months away, I won't bother with further details at this moment!

EDITOR'S REPORT

This month we feature a couple of articles of interest. First we have an article by Paul McEachen and Ron Williamson of Archaeological Services Inc., who report on a very interesting collection of Early Woodland material documented from near the mouth of the Credit River. Next we feature Tom Arnold, who provides us with a brief summary of what was found as Chapter members dug up the lawns of Grosvenor Lodge. Talk about archaeology by your own back door!

THE SILLER SITE: A MEADOWOOD COMPONENT ON THE CREDIT RIVER

Paul J. McEachen and Ronald F. Williamson

Introduction

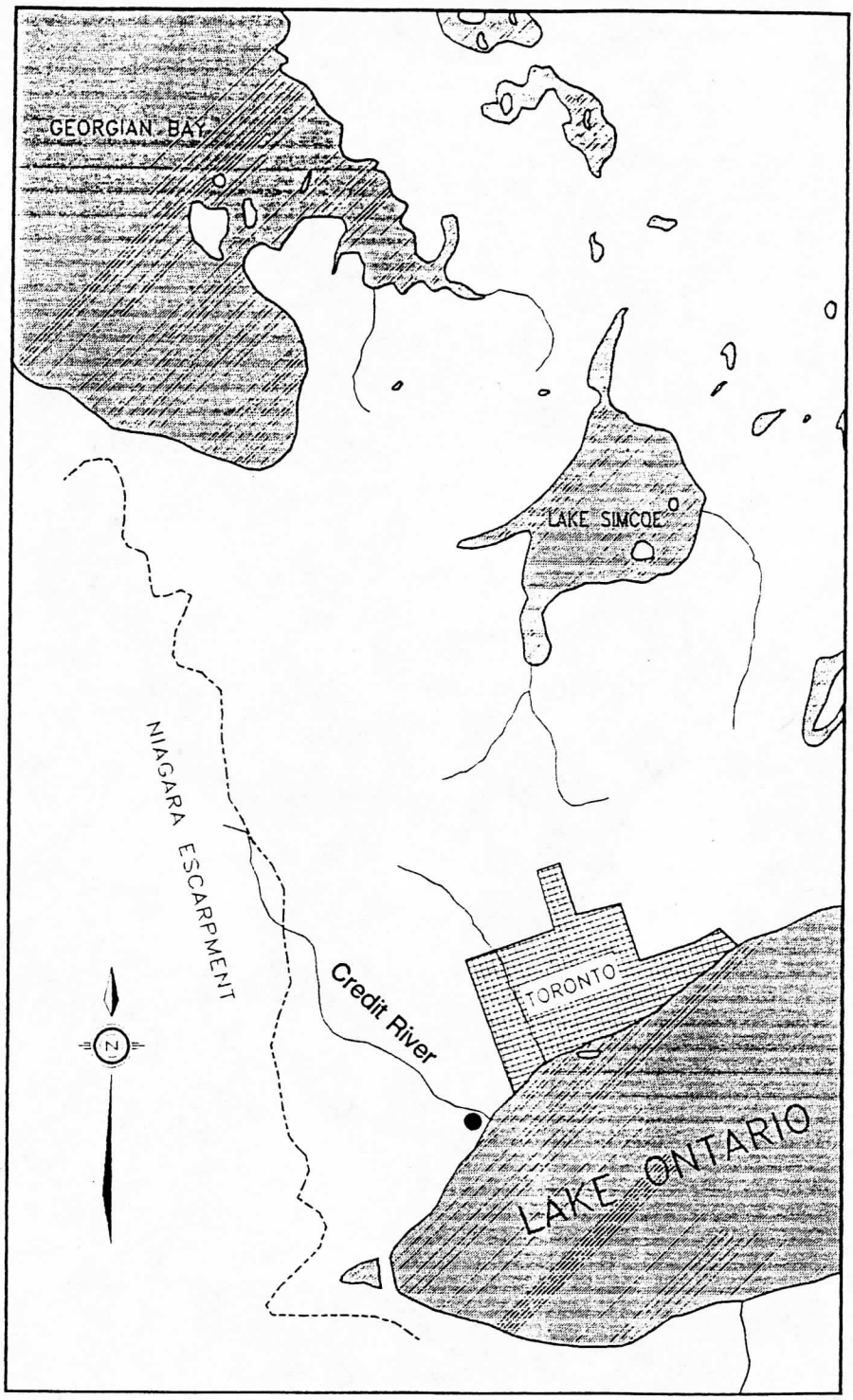
In the summer of 1991, Archaeological Services Inc. excavated the Scott-O'Brien site (AjGv-32), situated on a series of small level terraces immediately overlooking the west bank of the Credit River in Mississauga, Ontario (Figure 1). It is a one-acre site with almost one hundred pit features containing Vinette 1 pottery, classic Middle Woodland wares and typical transitional Middle Woodland (Princess Point) ceramics. A rich lithic tool assemblage, including a number of multiple side-notched Meadowood projectile points and Meadowood cache blades, was also recovered. While there was a dearth of subsistence data, it would appear that people were attracted to the site because of the rich variety of food resources that would have been available from the Credit River and its associated floodplain, especially during the spring spawning run (Archaeological Services Inc. 1994).

In the process of undertaking a detailed analysis of the site, an opportunity was provided to examine an assemblage of lithic artifacts that were collected from a riverside property situated approximately 400 metres north of the Scott O'Brien site. While details regarding their discovery remain unknown, they were apparently recovered during excavation of a septic system at the turn of the century. This assemblage, known as the Siller collection, consists of 82 lithic artifacts, 67 of which are tools and the remainder debitage. Tool forms include Archaic and Early Woodland Meadowood projectile points, Meadowood cache blades, non-diagnostic refined and crude bifaces and biface fragments, and end scrapers. The debitage includes secondary knapping flakes, secondary retouch flakes, shatter and retouched shatter. Many of the flakes and tools exhibit potlid fractures or concave scars, which in association with crinkled, angular fracturing and a change in chert colour and texture indicates that the artifacts had been thermally altered or heat treated. All of the artifacts, with only a few exceptions, are of Onondaga chert.

While most of the projectile points, cache blades and bifaces are fragmentary and without precise provenience, thereby limiting their analytical value, the presence of recognizable Meadowood tools in the collection, in addition to the component at the nearby Scott-O'Brien site, attests to a significant population having inhabited the lower Credit River in Early Woodland times.

Projectile Points

Seventeen complete or fragmentary projectile points are present in the collection. Eight can be classified as classic, side-notched Meadowood points, dated to ca. 800-300 B.C. (Granger 1978:17-18; Ritchie 1961:35; Spence et al. 1990:128). In addition, three more points may also be Meadowood, while the remainder are Middle Archaic in form (Ellis et al. 1990:81-84).



Archaeological Services Inc.

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Figure 1: Location of the Scott-O'Brien and Siller Sites.

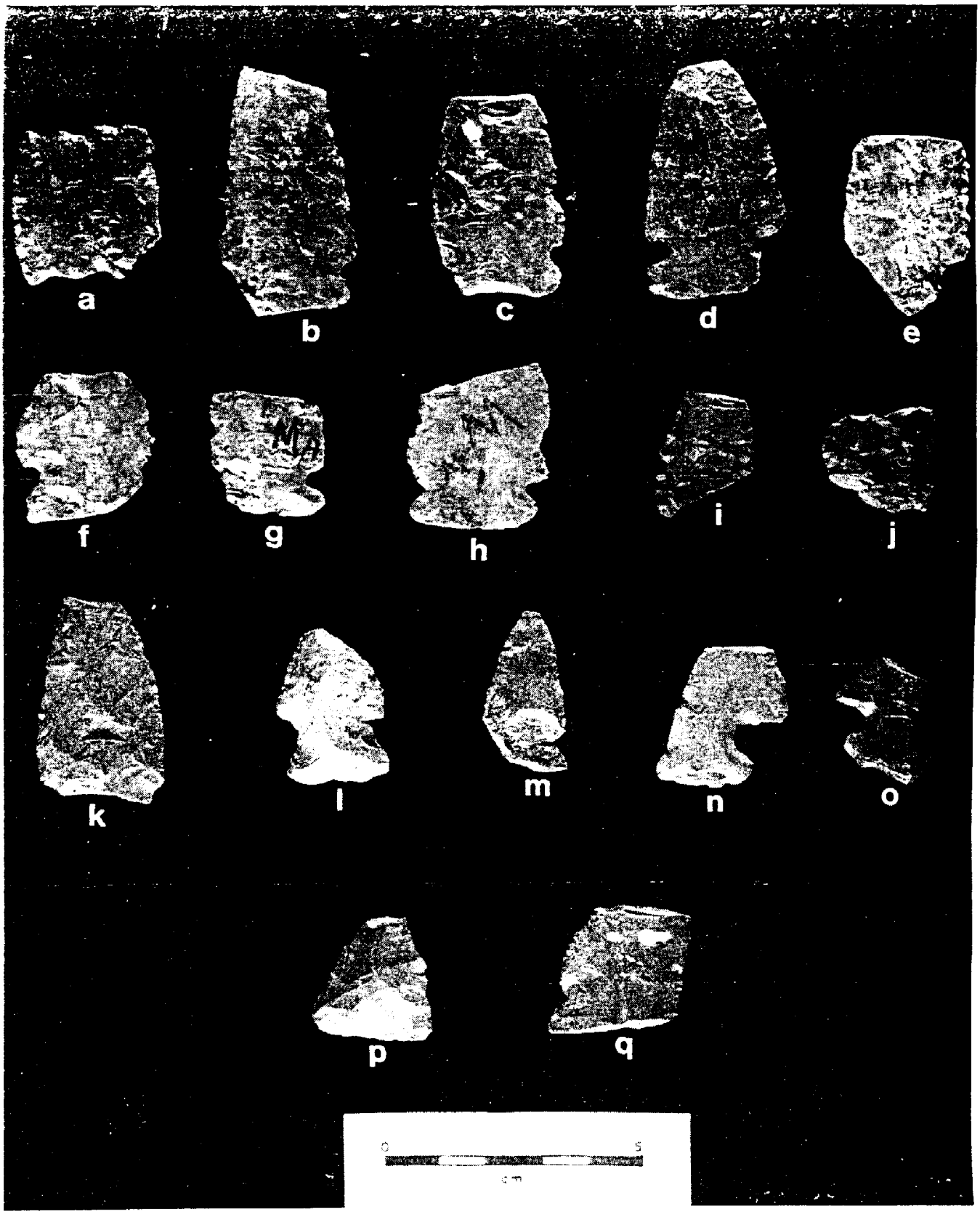

Figure 2: Siller Collection Projectile Points.

The Meadowood projectile points were manufactured from Onondaga chert with the exception of one point that was made from Ancaster chert. Three of the points are bilaterally double-notched (see Figure 2a-c), as were a number of those found at the Scott O'Brien site (Archaeological Services Inc. 1994). The notches are unifacial on two of the points (Figure 2b-c). In terms of fracture patterns, a number of the points exhibit a single notch as they were broken at the opposite notch (Figure 2d-g). Another point displays an angular fracture at its proximal end (Figure 2h). Overall, these points are fairly thin with a mean thickness of 5.68 mm. Their average width is 26.46 mm. These bifaces have been parallel flaked providing for a symmetrical appearance. The points are, for the most part, biconvex in section and display smooth, occasionally sinuous edges. A few specimens are characterized by large potlid fractures and a coarse exterior texture indicating thermal alteration (e.g. Figure 2f). See Table 1 for Metrics on these eight points.

TABLE 1
Siller Collection: Meadowood Projectile Point Measurements
(measurements in mm)

Measurement	Number	Range	Mean
Width	7	23.0-29.7	26.46
Neck Width	3	12.3-26.7	19.67
Notch Width	11	3.4-6.7	4.80
Thickness	8	4.5-6.6	5.68

Three additional points may date to the Early Woodland, although their fragmentary nature precludes positive identification. One specimen is a small side-notched point that is biconvex in cross section and is 4.6 mm thick and 1 3 mm wide (Figure 2i). The second point is also side-notched and measures 23.0 mm wide and 5.9 mm thick. It has been thermally altered to such a degree that further description is unwarranted (Figure 2j). A third point, with parallel flaking, is broken at the notches. The minimum width is 26.6 mm and the thickness is 7.4 mm. The point is biconvex in transverse section and plano-convex in longitudinal section (Figure 2k).

One of the projectile points exhibits wide side-notches that are asymmetrical (notch widths are 8.5 and 10.9 mm) and an expanding stem with a slightly concave-convex base (Figure 2l). This point is rather small (length = 31 mm) , made from Ancaster chert, and is heavily ground with rounded edges. It appears to represent a heavily reworked Middle Archaic Brewerton (ca. 3000-2500 B.C.) side-notched point (Ellis et al. 1990:88).

Three other fragmentary projectile points are present in the collection. one or these is thermally altered and side-notched with basal grinding and is also similar in form to shallow side-notched Brewerton style points (Figure 2m). A smoothly ground corner notched point fragment may also

date to Middle Archaic times (Figure 2n). The third fragment is finely flaked, corner-notched, and may be Middle Woodland (ca. A.D. 300-500) in origin (Figure 2o). It should be noted, however, that these affiliations are based on incomplete artifacts and should be considered provisional in nature.

A triangular biface with a straight and thinned base was also documented (Figure 2p). The basal width is 23.3 mm and thickness is 6.3 mm. It is biconvex in transverse section and concave-convex in longitudinal section. As the tip is missing it is not possible to determine the point's affiliation, although it is similar in form to a Levanna style. On the other hand, the tool thickens toward the proximal end suggesting it may have been a drill.

Also present is a side-notched point fragment that has a scraping facet on one of the lateral margins. It measures 26.7 mm in length, 23.7 mm in width, and 5 mm in thickness. The span and height of the working edge is 15.5 mm and 3.0 mm respectively. The edge angle is 55°. The point appears to have been modified, by unifacial retouch, into a side scraper after a distal break removed both the opposite notch and the remainder of the base (Figure 2q). The proximal (tip) is unworked.

Bifaces

Cache Blades

The collection also includes seven fragmentary Meadowood cache blades (Figure 3a-g), three of which are near complete. These are similar in form and nature to Granger's quaternary blanks (Granger 1978, 1981), and blades found in other Ontario caches (Fox 1981, 1984; Williamson 1980, 1988). They are all thin, narrow and triangular in shape.Their mean width is 23.87 mm (Range: 19.7-26.9), and their mean thickness is 5.49 mm (Range: 5.0-6.1). All of the specimens have been parallel flaked, creating a slight ridge extending along the middle of each artifact. In longitudinal section, these blades are biconvex, as each face of the blade is symmetrical. The bases are straight to slightly convex. Overall, the cache blades are extremely well made and only a few appear to have been thermally altered. All of the blades were produced from Onondaga chert with the exception of one, which was made from Selkirk chert (Figure 3b).

Similar in colour, texture and shape to some of the cache blades is a small biface midsection fragment manufactured from Selkirk chert. It has parallel flaking and grinding and is biconvex in transverse section. The artifact is i 9.8 mm wide and 5.0 mm thick (Figure 3h) and is also likely a cache blade fragment.

Other Biface Categories

Non-culturally diagnostic bifaces were divided into two subjective classes: crude and refined. Crude bifaces were defined on the basis of incomplete bifacial flaking, deep flake scars, fairly thick cross-sections, and evidence of rounding or crushing on edges. Refined bifaces, on the other hand, were defined on the basis of the presence of microflaking on at least one face producing a more finished appearance.

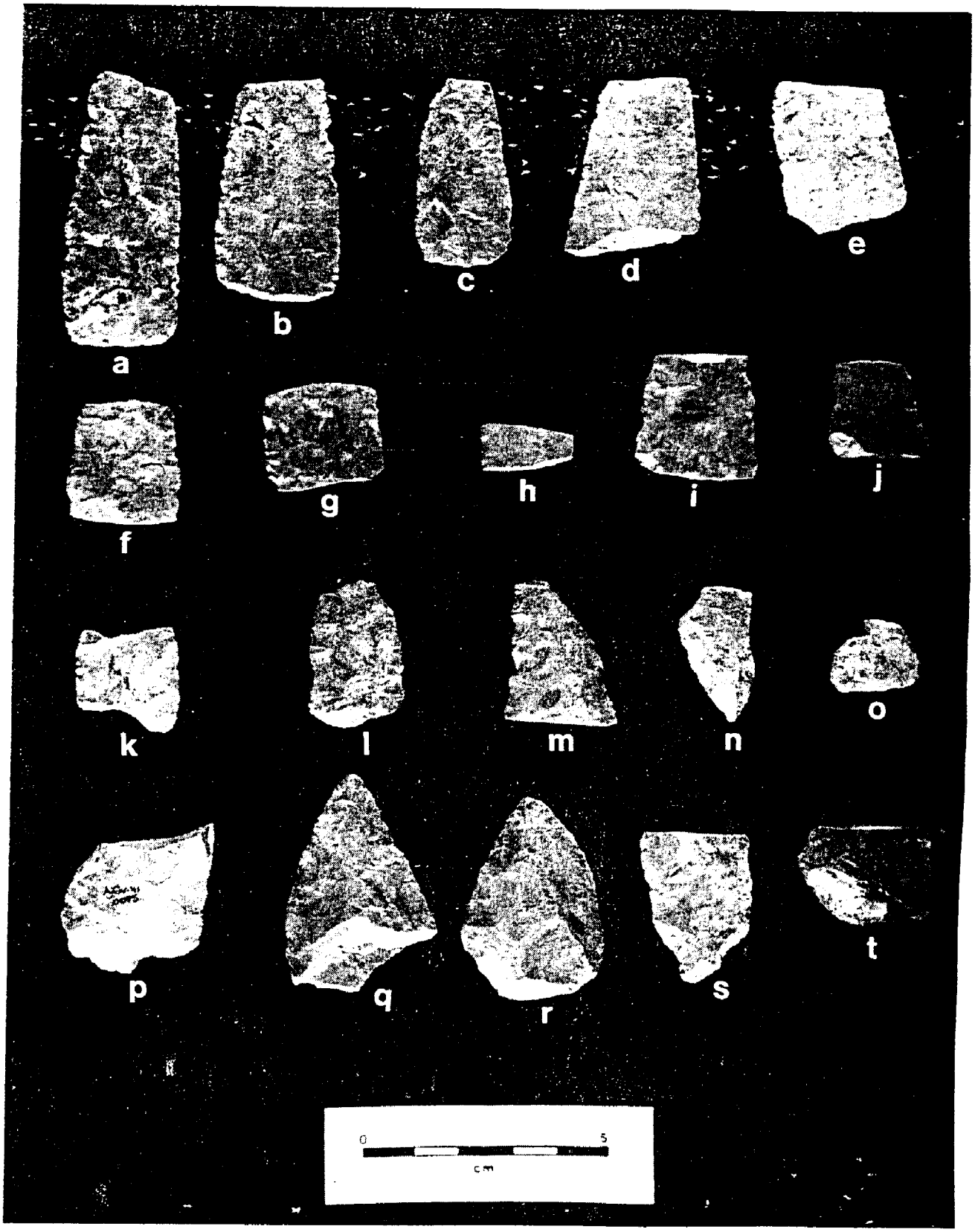

Figure 3: Siller Site Meadowood Cache Blades and Biface Fragments.

Refined Bifaces: The vast majority of biface fragments (18 or 90%) can be assigned to the refined category. Three biface, or possibly projectile point, midsections exhibit parallel flaking and are similar in appearance to Meadowood style blades (Figure 3i-k). They are all biconvex in longitudinal and transverse section and their mean width and thickness are 21.7 and 6.3 mm. While similar thickness measurements have been documented from the Bruce Boyd (Spence et al 1978) and Barber (Fox 1984) sites, the average thickness for the other Meadowood blades in this collection is much narrower at 5.49 mm.

Another biface (Figure 3l) has lateral margins that are not as well finished as the typical Meadowood blade. It also has an uneven convex base. Also present were two biface midsections (Figure 3m-n), both of which appear to have originated from refined tools. One of these features a large oblique break on a lateral margin (Figure 3m) and an incipient scraper facet along the opposite margin. The other midsection, manufactured from Ancaster chert (Figure 3n), appears to have been ground. Their width and thickness measurements are 23.2 mm and 5.3 mm and 19.5 mm and 6.4 mm, respectively.

Metric data for five other refined biface fragments include a mean width of 28.32 mm and an average thickness of 8.78 mm (Figure 3p-t). A number of these were clearly in the process of refinement into projectile points when their production was altered. Four specimens, for instance, show signs of notching on at least one lateral margin (Figure 4a-d). Three others appear to be in the initial stages of transformation into a formal tool (Figure 3p-r). In the case of one of these (Figure 3r), the appearance of a unifacially flaked notch on a lateral margin suggests that this artifact was in the process of being made into a projectile point. While one of the margins was finely worked, production seems to have ended when a number of hinge fractures were encountered on the distal face. As a result, one face appears much cruder than the other, as reflected in a plano-convex longitudinal section. The length, width and thickness measurements for this artifact are 41.2 mm x 29.9 mm x 10.6 mm.

Crude Bifaces: Two crude bifaces were also identified. The first specimen resembles an end scraper without any evidence of steep flaking or a working edge (Figure 4e). Made from Ancaster chert and waterworn, its dimensions are 39 mm in length, 22.2 mm in width, and 9.6 mm in thickness. The proximal portion was carefully flaked as clear blade edges are present. The rest of the specimen, however, was not flaked or thinned. The second item is a convex-shaped base of an oval biface manufactured from a large primary flake (Figure 4f). One of the lateral margins was incompletely worked. While both the dorsal and ventral surfaces were reduced, surficial cortex is still evident. Its measures 37.6 mm wide and 11.4 mm thick.

Biface Tips

Numerous biface tips were also documented, including four long and thin specimens that are most likely fragments of Meadowood points or cache blades (Figure 4g-j). The average width and thickness for these artifacts is 17.53 mm (Range: 14.6-20.1) and 5.28 mm (Range 4.3-7.1). One of these has extensive bilateral retouch (Figure 4h). Four other tips are extremely small, and average 4.98 mm thick (Figure 4k-n). One of these is rather crude and has been subjected to extreme heat alteration (Figure 4l).

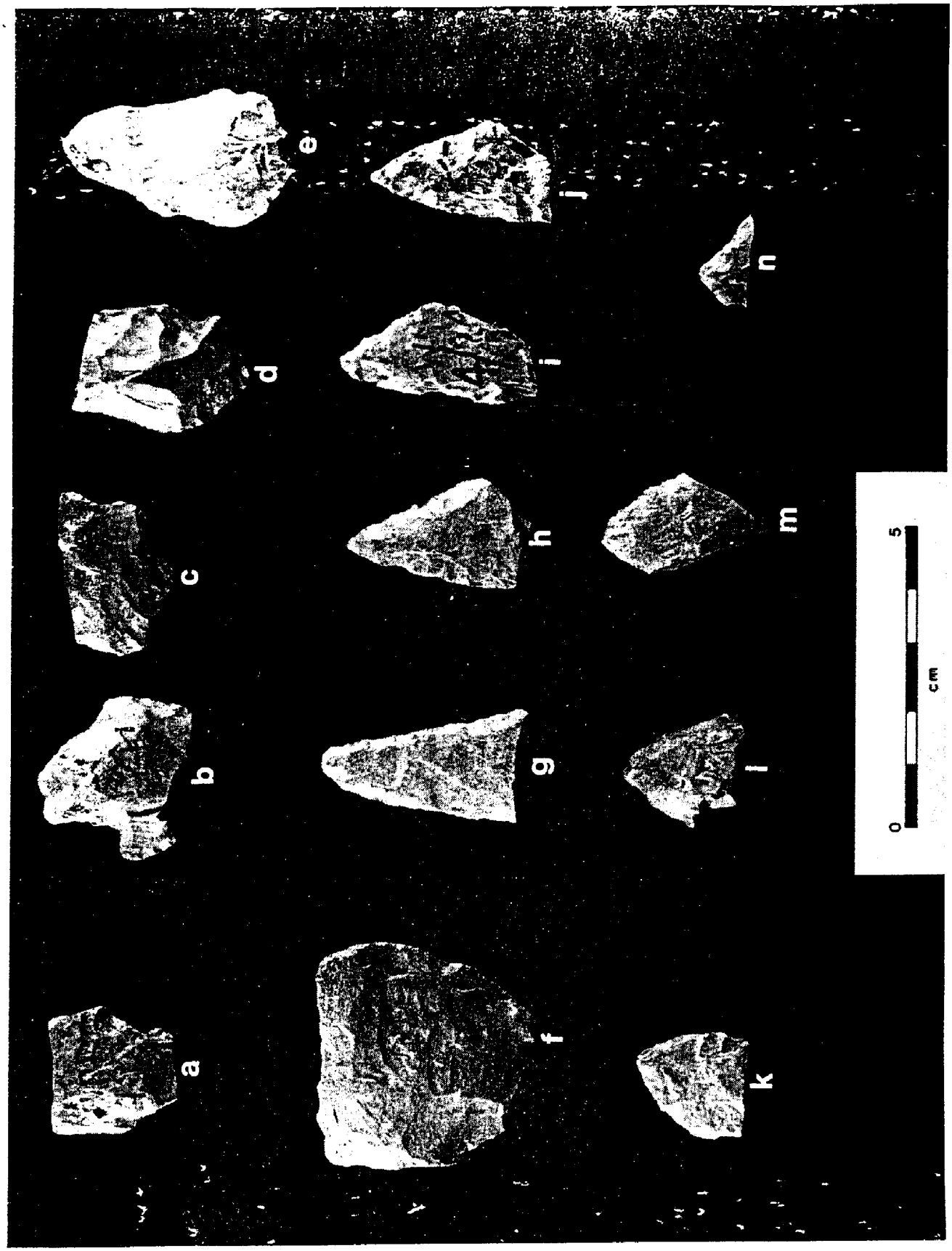

Figure 4: Siller Site Biface Fragments.

Scrapers

Fourteen scrapers were also documented in the assemblage. Four of these are biface fragments reworked into scrapers (Table 2; Figure 5a-d). A remnant striking platform is still visible on one of the tools.

TABLE 2
Reworked Biface Fragment Scraper Measurements
(measurements in mm)

Measurement	Number	Range	Mean
Length	4	17.3-41.7	25.35
Width	4	21.7-24.2	22.75
Thickness	4	4.4-6.4	5.23
Span of Working Edge	3	11.7-20.2	16.57
Height of Working Edge	3	2.9-5.1	4.07
Edge Angle	3	51°-75°	60°

There are also six complete end scrapers (Figure 5i-n), and four other partial end scrapers, two of which are of the thumbnail variety (Table 3; Figure 5g-h). While some scrapers appear to have only a single working edge, specimens with multiple working edges are also present.

TABLE 3
End Scraper Measurements
(measurements in mm)

Measurement	Number	Range	Mean
Length	10	19.7-36.3	26.26
Width	10	11.9-27.4	20.56
Thickness	10	4.6-6.7	5.44
Span of Working Edge	10	11.5-23.2	16.37
Height of Working Edge	10	3.1-5.8	4.63
Edge Angle	10	43°-80°	62.4°

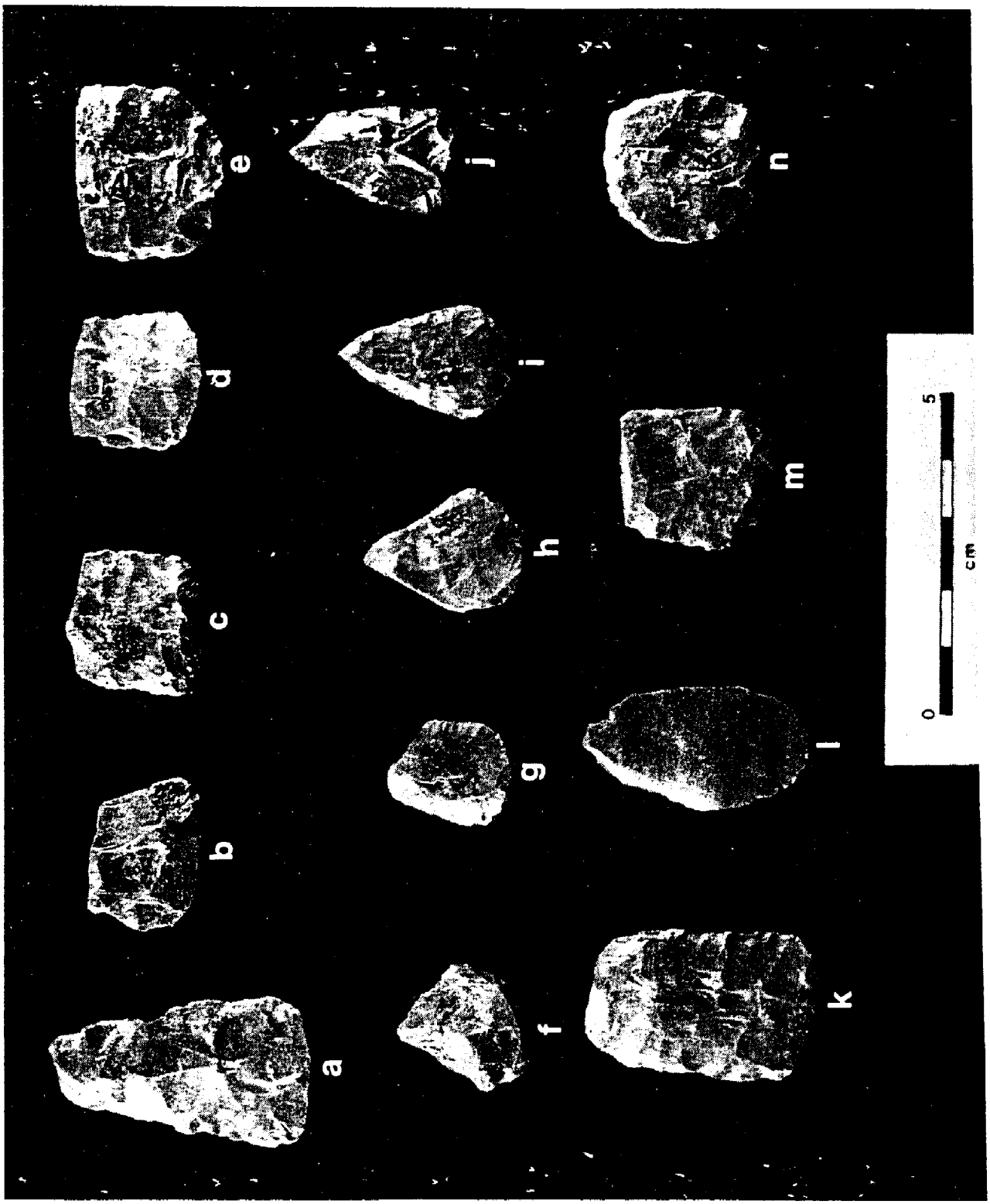

Figure 5: Siller Site Scraping Tools

Lithic Debitage

A total of 15 pieces of debitage, constituting 18% of the collection, were analyzed. Seven pieces of shatter were identified, two of which were retouched. In both cases, the retouch occurs on the ventral surface of the artifact. Four secondary knapping flakes are also present. These are characteristically thin, with shallow scars on the dorsal surface that tend to be aligned perpendicular to the striking platform. Four secondary retouch flakes are also present. These are typically very thin or even flat with shallow flake scars that are perpendicular to the striking platform. The secondary retouch flakes from this collection are extremely small.

Conclusions

The examination of the Siller Site assemblage has provided an important opportunity to identify a number of lithic artifacts manufactured by a Meadowood population inhabiting the lower reaches of the Credit River. Indeed, it is through archaeological investigations that include the examinations of private collections, undertaken in the context of regional research programs, that we will achieve a more complete understanding of the extent and nature of the occupation of southern Ontario in the past.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Ms. Carolyn Siller for the opportunity to examine the collection, which has remained in her family's care for several generations. We would also like to thank Ms. Deborah Steiss and Mr. Stephen Cox Thomas for their assistance and comments on an early draft of this paper, and Ms. Carol Short for her help with preparing the manuscript.

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THE LONDON CHAPTER'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE GROSVENOR LODGE PROPERTY, CITY OF LONDON

Tom Arnold

Introduction

In 1992 the London Cultural and Natural Heritage Centre at Grosvenor Lodge was established by the City of London. The London Chapter of the OAS was one of a large number of local heritage and environmental organizations that took up residence in Grosvenor Lodge as a result of this decision. As members know, the Chapter's main office is located in this 19th century manor house, and we hold our monthly speaker nights at this location.

Grosvenor Lodge is situated on approximately 3.5 acres of parkland surrounding the building, in the north part of the City near the University (Figure 1). This property is currently owned in part by the City of London, and by the University of Western Ontario.

The Chapter volunteered to its fellow organizations housed at Grosvenor Lodge to conduct an archaeological assessment of the property, to determine the extent and nature of archaeological deposits present. This work was conducted by Chapter volunteers over a number of weekends in 1992 and 1993.

Background

A history of the family that occupied Grosvenor Lodge through the 19th century has been produced by the London Historical Museums (LHM 1981), and is briefly summarized here. The original owner and builder of Grosvenor Lodge was Samuel Peters, an immigrant engineer and land surveyor who originally hailed from Devonshire, England. According to the family history, Samuel Peters and his wife, Ann, immigrated to Canada in 1835, after Samuel had first secured a position as a land surveyor with the Canadian Land Company. By the 1850s Samuel Peters was surveying extensively in the London area. He drew one of the first maps of Middlesex County in 1854, and of the City of London in 1855. His own acquisition of large tracts of land west of the Thames River in London Township led to the establishment of "Petersville," so named until that area was incorporated into the City of London in 1896.

It was in this area west of the city that Samuel Peters decided in 1852 to build a new house in the country. His nephew (son?), Samuel Peters Jr., drew up the plans for Grosvenor Lodge. Work commenced in the spring of 1853 and the family was able to move in by 1854, with the property surrounding the house used as a farm. Upon the death of Samuel Peters in July of 1864, his son John, his wife Gertrude, and their family moved into Grosvenor Lodge. Their daughter Leila appears to have been the last descendant of Samuel Peters to live in the lodge. After a long history as a domestic residence, Grosvenor Lodge was used for a number of functions, including a local museum, until it sat vacant after its use as a showcase for a recent "Interiors" design show

and fund-raising event for Orchestra London...vacant, at least, until local environmental and heritage groups took it over!

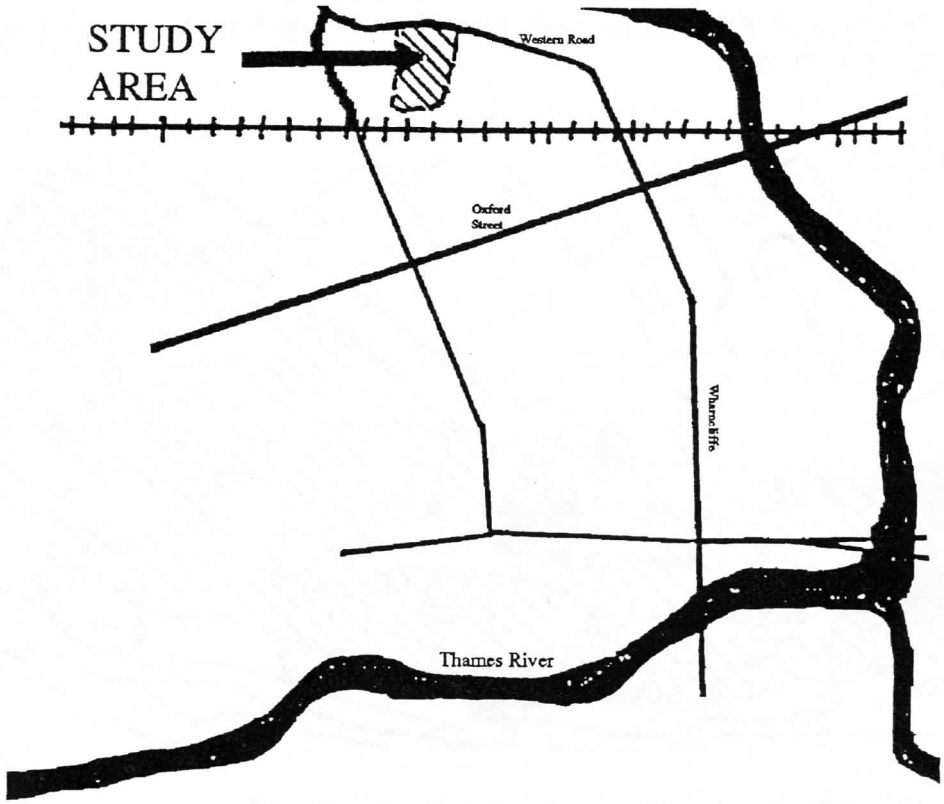

Figure 1: Location of the Study Area.

Field Assessment

The Grosvenor Lodge property is situated on tableland above the north branch of the Tames River, which is situated about a 180 metres to the northeast, across Western Drive. Topographic evidence, such as a semi-lunate marshy area in the bottom of the river valley, indicates that the river actually flowed closer to the toe of the slope which leads up to the tableland where the Grosvenor Lodge property is located. When this bend in the river was active, the property would only have been 125 metres away.

The southern edge of the property drops off quite significantly. This slope is presently wooded and falls over 6 metres in a 12-20 metre distance. Areas to the north and east of the property have all been heavily built up with residential development. Within the property stands Grosvenor Lodge, as well as a number of outbuildings, including a barn, and a number of dirt laneways and

landscaped parking areas.

All of the lawns and open areas of the Grosvenor Lodge property were archaeologically assessed (Figure 2). Assessment consisted of excavating test pits, dug at 5 metre intervals, with all fill screened through • inch mesh.

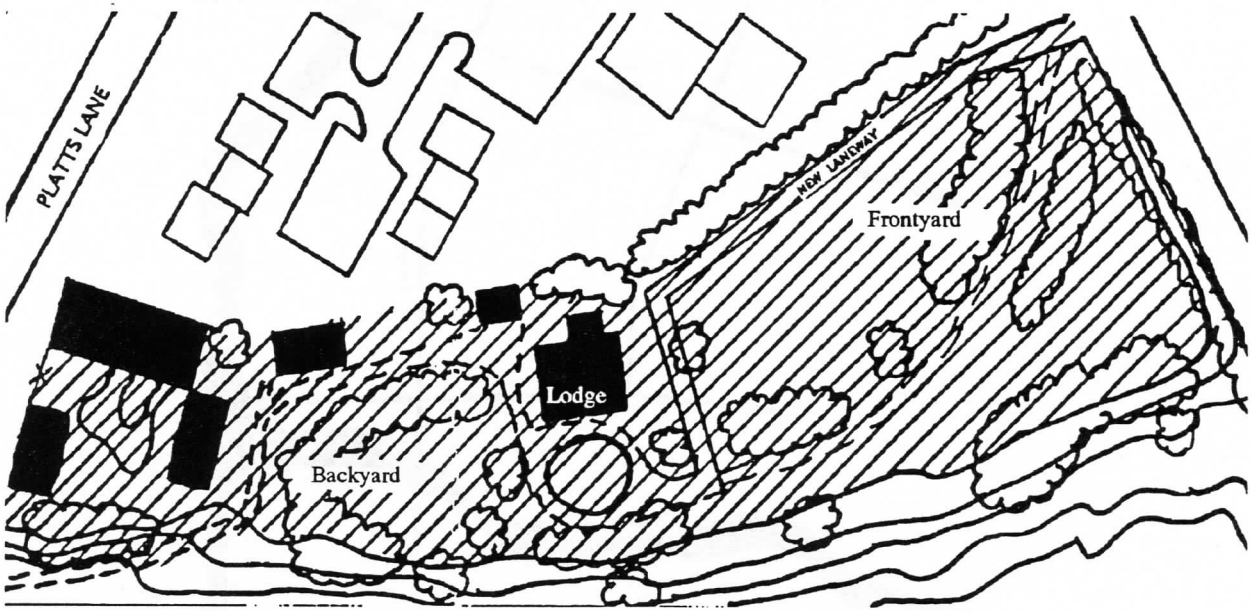

Figure 2: The Grosvenor Lodge Property and Areas Surveyed.

Results

The assessment produced both prehistoric and historic artifacts, although the historic use of this property is far more heavily represented in the assemblage of material recovered (Table 1). The artifacts recovered generally indicate a mid-19th century association, although items were recovered reflecting the long period of occupation of this property. The majority of the material recovered does appear to be associated with the 19th century occupation of the property by the Peters family, indicating that these more significant deposits have not been, at least in the areas surveyed, too heavily impacted by 20th century institutional uses of the property. That the majority of these 19th century remains were also find in relative proximity to the Lodge also argues that the deposits are primarily associated with the Peters family.

As Table 1 indicates, the historic ceramic assemblage includes painted sherds, unscalloped edgeware, sponge ware and transfer printed ceramics. However, most of the sherds recovered are either plain or too fragmentary (ie. missing one or both surfaces), making identifications difficult.

Included in the assemblage of ceramics are three blue painted pearlware sherds, which generally date to the 1820s-1830s (Kenyon 1991: 12). Blue edgeware sherds recovered are all unscalloped,

and moulded with shallow relief. According to Miller and Hunter (1990: 117), this style became common in the 1840s and lasted until the 1860s. Transfer printed sherds present in the collection represent a number of colours, including red, purple, black and blue. The "Blue Willow" motif is noted. These sherds would also suggest a general 1840s to 1860s association. Finally, a single sherd of blue spongeware was also recovered, again suggesting a mid 19th century date.

TABLE 1
Inventory of All Artifacts Recovered

ARTIFACT CATEGORY	Number	ARTIFACT CATEGORY	Number
Banded Ceramics	1	Window Glass	35
Edgeware Ceramics	5	Brick fragments	30
Painted Ceramics, pearlware	3	Cement fragments	1
Painted Ceramics	3	Coal	1
Pearlware glazed Ceramics	2	Slag	5
Porcelain	1	Bone fragments	44
Sponged Ceramics, blue	3	Shell fragments	1
Transfer Printed, fragment	1	Tooth fragments	1
Transfer Printed, black	1	Coin	1
Transfer Printed, blue	1	Metal cap	1
Transfer Printed, purple	1	Metal wire fragments	1
Transfer Printed, red	1	Misc. metal	1
Whiteware glazed Ceramics	93	Nails	26
Whiteware, plain rim	1	Screw	1
Course earthenware	2	Sheet metal fragments	2
Crockery fragments	1	Unidentified metal	1
Earthenware crockery	2	Plastic buttons	2
Red earthenware	1	Flake fragments	5
Yelloware	1	Primary flake	1
Bottle Glass	12	Fire-Cracked Rock	1
Pop bottle glass	4	**TOTAL**	314

A large number of window glass fragments were also recovered. Kenyon (1980) notes that window glass thickness tends to increase over the 19th century, with site collections analyzed dating after 1850 exhibiting an average pane thickness of 1.6 mm. The 36 window glass sherds recovered during the Grosvenor Lodge survey have an average thickness of 1.9 mm, suggesting a post 1850s association, although the long term occupation of the property limits the value of this observation.

The final datable historic artifact recovered is a one cent piece dated to 1859. According to Cross (1991), this coin is one of the first coins issued after the decision to adopt decimal coinage. These coins usually depict 16 serpentine maple leaves on one side, with an idealized, youthful Queen Victoria wearing a laurel on her head depicted on the other side. The majority of these coins were made of bronze, with the remainder made of brass. The coin recovered was corroded but after cleaning it was determined to be made of bronze, and is a Plain Narrow 9 variant.

While most historic artifacts associated with the 19th century came from around Grosvenor Lodge, historic material was found in test pits excavated across the entire property. The spread of this material likely reflects minor landscaping and soil disturbance activity associated with the regular maintenance of this property. None of the test pits excavated as a part of this survey exhibited deep deposits of fill, which would have been indicative of large scale alterations. While more extensive disturbances have occurred immediately around Grosvenor Lodge, due to past expansions, servicing and renovation work, the findings from this survey suggest that intact below-ground deposits associated with the Peters family occupation are likely to be found on the Grosvenor Lodge grounds.

Prehistoric artifacts were also recovered during the assessment, and consist of a primary chert flake, 5 flake fragments, and a piece of fire-cracked rock. All the flakes were of Onondaga chert. All the test pits which yielded prehistoric material are located in a 30 by 15 metre area in the front yard of the property, and likely represent a small prehistoric occupation. No diagnostics were recovered to suggest cultural or temporal affiliations. Further work in this location would help clarify the nature of this occupation.

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